

Australia to resume uranium exports after four-year ban

CANBERRA, Aug. 15 (R). — Australia has decided that the mining and export of large uranium deposits in the Northern Territory can resume after a four-year ban, government officials reported today. A spokesman for Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser refused to confirm or deny the reports, but the prime minister is expected to announce the decision in parliament on Thursday. It is likely to bring angry protests from the opposition Labour Party, which strongly opposes developing Australia's 20 per cent share of the non-communist world's uranium or selling it as nuclear fuel to Japan and W. Europe.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورديان تايمز عربية سياسية وصحفية اردنية «الرأي»

Volume 2, Number 529

AMMAN, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1977 — RAMADAN 2, 1397

Price: 50 fils

Israeli cabinet decision to extend "equal" rights to West Bank, Gaza Arabs raises storm of controversy

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (Agencies). — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin insisted today that his government's move to grant the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip "equal rights" with Israeli citizens was meant to improve social services in occupied Arab lands and had no ulterior political motive.

His political foes and Arab leaders in the territories maintained, however, that yesterday's cabinet decision could lead to formal annexation of the West Bank and of the Gaza Strip.

Ever since these areas were seized from the Arabs in 1967, Israel has preserved the distinction between occupation and annexation, except in the case of Jerusalem, which has been annexed outright.

Arabs in the West Bank retain Jordanian citizenship and live under Jordanian law. Gaza Arabs come under Egyptian law but their citizenship is more vague.

Elaborating on the cabinet decision at a briefing for news yesterday, Mr. Arieh Naor, the Cabinet Secretary, said the new policy would be worked out by a ministerial committee on security and presented to the cabinet in a few weeks.

"The government intends to grant the inhabitants of the territories equal rights, the same as those enjoyed by the residents of the state of Israel," Mr. Naor said.

The spokesman said the change would not affect the legal status of the occupied West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Jordanian law would continue to operate on the West Bank, and Egyptian law in Gaza.

"What we are seeking is mainly equality in providing services," he said. "At present more funds are allocated for hospital buildings in Israel than in the territories."

The new policy did not touch on the situation of the Palestinian refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank, and their inhabitants, Mr. Naor said.

"This is a different matter and will be dealt with separately," he said.

Nor would the new policy affect the occupied Golan Heights, the spokesman added.

Labour Party suspicious

The opposition Labour Party, ousted from power in last May's general elections, made clear it regarded the move as a first step towards incorporating these territories into Israel.

Mr. Begin's political opponents stressed the timing of the decision. It came at a crucial juncture in the search for Middle East negotiations in which the fate of the West Bank and Gaza is a burning issue.

But Mr. Begin told reporters the move had absolutely no political significance. He said its timing was dictated solely by the agenda for yesterday's cabinet meeting.

"All we want to do is to do good to people. What is wrong with doing good?" Mr. Begin said.

Asked what reaction he expected from the United States, Mr. Begin said: "None at all. What's wrong with improving the lot of the people in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and Gaza?"

An opposition leader, former Health Minister Victor Shemtov said up till now the Begin government had always maintained that health and other social services in occupied lands were perfectly satisfactory.

Charges by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation that welfare standards were low had invariably been dismissed by the Israeli government, Mr. Shemtov said.

He told reporters: "This move appears to be a move towards de facto annexation which could be followed by de jure annexation." Mr. Shemtov also asked if, to pay for the new services, the government would pile fresh taxes on the already heavily taxed Israelis.

Mr. Yigal Allon, Foreign Minister in the previous Labour government, was especially critical of the move in which the proposal had been announced and its timing, fearing it would raise suspicions of Israel's motives and drawing hostile reactions.

Speaking in a Knesset foreign policy debate requested by the opposition following the visit to Israel of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Mr. Allon also questioned the financing of the project and its possible impact on the international scene.

Sources close to the military administration in the occupied territories said extension of public services equal to those enjoyed by Israeli citizens would cost hundreds of thousands of Israeli pounds and would require several years to implement.

Arab affairs specialists said government health and other insurance coverage alone would cost about 1,000 million pounds (over \$100 million) per year. They also noted that West Bank and Gaza residents currently paid much lower taxes than Israeli citizens.

Observers in West Jerusalem noted that government denials of any annexationist designs were somewhat weakened by

U.S. State Department withholds comment

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (R). — The State Department said today the U.S. had not yet analysed the legal implications of Israel's decision to improve social services for Arabs in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Department spokesman Hodding Carter told reporters he could not comment further on the move.

He was not aware of any contact with Israeli officials here or in Israel to clarify the decision, he said.

Mr. Carter did not say whether the subject had been discussed during Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's visit to Israel last week.

Commandos blast Israeli intelligence office

BEIRUT, Aug. 15 (R). — Explosives planted by Palestinian commandos seriously damaged an Israeli intelligence office in Jerusalem on Saturday night, killing or wounding an unknown number of Israelis, the Palestine news agency Wafa reported yesterday. The agency also confirmed that guerrilla commander Ismail Hadad was killed in a clash with Israeli forces in the San Salam Hamad was killed in the 35-minute encounter with the guerrilla forces in Tel Aviv, a military spokesman said on Saturday that Mr. Hadad had been shot dead after a chase in hills near Halbul village.

Begin, Allon slug it out during Knesset meet

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (AFP). — Differences with the U.S. will not stop the Israeli government from going ahead with a policy in Israel's best understood interests, Prime Minister Menachem Begin told the Knesset today.

Mr. Begin also charged that the policy of past Labour Party governments had not been endorsed by Washington.

In a brief but bitter special foreign policy debate, former Labour Foreign Minister Yigal Allon had earlier accused Mr. Begin of carrying out a fundamental change for the worse, by freeing the U.S. of any undertaking towards Israel.

If this continued, Israel's position would continue to deteriorate and become catastrophic when the time inevitably came to discuss real problems, Mr. Allon said.

Mr. Allon added that it had been understood when Labour was in power that Washington consulted Israel before any initiative, so the respective positions could be coordinated but this tradition had now been broken because of Mr. Begin.

Mr. Begin told the Knesset that the present government's policy did not differ from that

of the fact that two other occupied areas, the Sinai and the Golan Heights, were not included in the project.

Sources close to the military administration said it was Defence Minister Ezer Weizman who was behind the move.

Unanimous Arab condemnation

On the Arab side reaction was hostile. Gaza Mayor Rashad Al Shawwa said: "This is a step towards annexation. The Gaza city council will send a letter of protest to the Israeli government and to the United Nations."

Mayor Fahd Qawasmeh of Hebron on the West Bank said if it was just a question of improving facilities the Arabs would welcome it. "But we reject annexation," he said.

In Cairo, Arab League sources said that League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad had sent a protest note to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim over the application of Israeli legislation on the West Bank and Gaza concerning health, labour and other matters.

Jordan slams decision

Jordan said today the decision by the Israeli cabinet intended to change the nature of the occupied areas.

An official statement said the decision was a serious step towards annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Jordan considers these measures and the clarifications issued (by the Israeli government) a flagrant violation of international law and a challenge to international will," the statement said.

Jordan, in consultation with the other Arab states was now studying the implications of the Israeli decision and its effects on peace efforts in the Middle East, it added.

In Beirut, the Palestine commando movement also charged today that Israeli government plans to give Arabs in occupied territory equal rights with residents of Israel concealed intentions to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Falastin Al Thawra, political organ of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, described as a thin disguise the Israeli spokesman's statement that the aim was to increase the number of hospitals and other services.

Israeli reservists called up in practice run

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (R). — Israel began to call up thousands of reservists today in the second public mobilisation exercise held here in the past two months.

The military spokesman's office, which announced yesterday that the exercise would soon be held, broadcast code words over the state radio and television. Some private vehicles were also mobilised.

The exercises are designed to test new call-up methods devised by the Israelis after the 1973 war.

In a separate development, the English-language Jerusalem Post reported yesterday that the United States will sell Israel only about one quarter of the 250 sophisticated F-16 fighter aircraft it wanted.

The newspaper's military correspondent said the U.S. would sell only 50 to 75 of the aircraft to Israel and had effectively turned down an Israeli request to co-produce the plane.

The paper said the General Dynamics Company, which builds the F-16, opposed granting any more than a symbolic five per cent co-production agreement -- which would not cover an estimated \$100 million investment.

The Post said Israel would probably go ahead and buy the reduced number of F-16s. It also said Israel was considering an offer to buy another 25 F-15 eagle fighters from McDonnell Douglas to bolster the 25 already in service.

Begin to Romania

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (AFP). — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin will go to Romania about the end of the month on an official three-day visit, it was announced here today.



HEY, LISTEN TO THIS — President Jimmy Carter meets Mr. Cyrus Vance at the White House Sunday to discuss the secretary of state's recent tour of the Middle East. (AP wirephoto).

President Carter to meet with Mideast envoys in September

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (AFP). President Carter will meet in September with the foreign ministers of Arab countries and Israel to discuss the resumption of negotiations for a Middle East peace, the White House announced last night.

The statement was issued after Secretary of State Cyrus Vance reported to the president on his just completed Mideast mission.

The series of meetings will be held when the foreign ministers come to New York for

the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Vance will continue his own contacts with the ministers.

The White House communique said that during Mr. Vance's tour "progress was made in some areas, particularly in reaffirming Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for negotiations and in moving closer to a common concept of the mutual obligations of peace, although much remains to be accomplished in this respect."

As an example of the problems ahead, the communique said that "major differences between Arabs and Israelis remain on how Palestinian views can best be represented in negotiations, but also on the definition of secure and recognised borders and the nature of a Palestinian settlement."

The president was said to be still "hopeful" that the Geneva conference could be reconvened this fall despite those differences.

Mr. Vance also reported to the president on the results of his Rhodesia talks in his London stopover on the way home from the Middle East. He had discussions there with the British and South African foreign ministers, with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, and Rhodesian moderate nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

The communique said the main aim of the proposal worked out in the London talks was "free elections, based on universal suffrage, leading to a majority-ruled, independent Zimbabwe in 1978."

Mr. Carter considered the proposal "fair and reasonable," and the U.S. would work with Britain in presenting it to all interested parties as soon as possible.

(See related story p. 6)

Time reports on Lebanon Secret meeting at sea prompts Israeli move

BEIRUT, Aug. 15 (R). — As fighting continued in southern Lebanon and reports circulated that Israel was using tanks in the rightist campaign against the leftist-Palestinian alliance, Time magazine stated that Israel had supplied the rightists with millions of dollars of arms after a secret meeting at sea between former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and rightist leaders.

The two Lebanese, leaders of competing factions, arrived by separate boats and refused to meet each other, but both appealed to Rabin for direct Israeli intervention in the civil war, Time said.

Israel refused to become directly involved, fearing another full-scale Mideast war, Time quoted a former cabinet member as saying, but food and medical aid became a "shop window" for arms to the Beirut-Jounieh area and the mountains.

Israeli officers moved into rightist communities and some 1,500 volunteers were trained at army bases in Israel.

Time said Israelis are convinced they had a decisive effect on the outcome of the war and quoted one minister as saying: "Our aid prevented a Christian genocide and forced the leftwingers and the Palestinians to sign the cease-fire agreement."

Fighting broke out again today between the rival forces along Lebanon's southern border, travellers from the area said.

They said five people were killed and 12 others wounded in fierce fighting during the night.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation newspaper, Falastin Al Thawra, said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had contacted Arab leaders and friendly states yesterday on the situation in the south.

Commenting on reports that the Sabra agreement, aimed at governing relations between Palestinians and Lebanese authorities, was to go into effect in the south today, the paper said: "It seems that this door moves further away whenever one makes a step towards it."

Leftist forces said yesterday that Israel was using tanks in southern Lebanon, increasing its involvement in the fighting there.

Speaking in Tel Al Saqi and nearby Khayam, they said the Israelis began using tanks last week to join rightist gunners and Israeli batteries across the border in pounding positions held by leftists.

The leftist claims of intensified shelling from Israel, most of it overnight, were backed by civilians in the demilitarised village of Kfar Shouba, eight kilometres south east of Tel Al Saqi.

"Every night since the middle of last week, the Israelis have moved tanks -- including Centurions -- into (rightist-held) Marjeyoun and Qlefa to help those shelling us," said Abu K'lah, the Maronite Christian commander of a detachment of Lebanese leftists.

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Ogaden war spills into Somalia

NAIROBI, Aug. 15 (R). — Somalia said today the three-week old war on its borders had spilled into Somali territory and warned its people to expect an invasion by Ethiopia.

Mogadishu Radio said Ethiopian air force jets had struck at northwestern Somalia and two had been shot down. Ethiopia quickly denied the claim.

The Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) quoted a Ministry of Information spokesman as saying the Somalia report was "mere fantasy and a futile attempt to cover up its own aggressive adventures."

It was the first time the Somali Defence Ministry had said the war in the disputed Ogaden desert region was spreading into Somali territory.

The Mogadishu broadcast said policemen, civilians and cattle were killed in three raids on Avi-Baday, Tug Wajale and Khabas in the northwest. It said two U.S.-built F-5 jets were shot down near Hargeisa, but did not say where the attack took place.

In a broadcast to the Somali nation on Mogadishu Radio last night, President Siad

Barre called on his people "to be ready for a tough period, to be prepared to defend your freedom, to be prepared as you traditionally are to mobilise your strength to defend the precious freedom which came to you dearly."

He said he had heard reports that Cuba was sending troops to intervene in the war, but added: "I simply cannot believe this because I regard Cuba as a revolutionary socialist nation championing the cause of the oppressed masses."

Last week Somalia's ambassador to Kenya told reporters his government had information that between 5,000 and 9,000 troops "from outside Africa" were on their way to Ethiopia.

President Siad called on Somalis to prepare themselves for a tough period ahead. "The Addis Ababa regime has made it clear that it will invade Somalia," he said.

"According to reports we do not believe Ethiopia is said to have assembled a 300,000 to 400,000 man army, which is said to have been equipped by socialist nations, and whose purpose is, to attack Somalia."

"I would like to state that if foreign troops enter the war against the Western Somalia and other liberation fronts Somalia will not hold its arms. She will be forced to intervene and use all means at her disposal to protect her freedom and sovereignty."

"Somalia has" consistently said that its forces are not involved in the war for the Ogaden desert. I say all fighting is being done by the Western Somalia Liberation Front," the president said.

Front-line Arab meeting mooted for Sept. 3

CAIRO, Aug. 15 (AFP). — Foreign minister from the Arab frontline states and Palestine Liberation Organisation officials will meet here on Sept. 3 during the annual Arab League minister conference, Cairo press reports said yesterday.

They will discuss the current Middle East situation in the light of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's recent tour, the reports said.

Foreign minister from Egypt, Syria and Jordan, as well as a delegation led by Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, will take part, the reports said.

Moscow-Cairo ties hit new low as Egypt suspends cotton shipments

CAIRO, Aug. 15 (R). — Egypt's relations with Moscow, already poor, are expected to reach a new low following Cairo's decision to suspend cotton shipments to the Soviet Union.

President Anwar Sadat announced the suspension in apparent retaliation for Soviet reluctance to fulfil a tank deal.

Mr. Sadat said yesterday he had asked Prime Minister Mamdouh Salem to suspend the export cotton quota for the Soviet Union and another eastern bloc country.

The semi-official Cairo daily Al Ahram today named the second country as Czechoslovakia, which had stopped delivery of tanks to Egypt because of what the paper called Soviet "incitement."

President Sadat said Egypt had paid for the tanks in hard currency but that fewer than a quarter of them had been delivered after a year's delay.

Cairo newspapers added that the Soviet Union had also placed an embargo on the supply of spare parts for weapons already supplied to Egypt.

The Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc have been the main importers of Egyptian cotton, the country's most important crop, for more than 20 years, ever since Soviet arms started arriving in Egypt

through Czechoslovakia in 1955. Moscow and the Eastern Bloc took cotton in exchange for their shipments of arms and industrial goods.

The newspaper Al Gomhouria today quoted an official economic source as saying that more than 40 per cent of Egyptian cotton went to the Soviet Union in return for arms.

The source said Moscow used to renew the cotton agreement every few years, achieving preferential terms every time. He added that the Soviet Union used to re-export

Egyptian cotton to Western countries, according to the paper.

Observers in Moscow said tonight that President Sadat's decision to halt Egyptian cotton exports to the Soviet Union has reduced the chances of any reconciliation between the former allies.

They said the use of trade to exert political pressure is a tactic intensely resented in Moscow and the Egyptian move was bound to aggravate any already severe strain in relations.

Sickness insurance scheme unveiled

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (AFP). — The Israeli Defence Ministry today unveiled the first of its new plans to improve public services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

They included a voluntary sickness insurance scheme, which will begin operation in the two areas in two months.

Meanwhile bus companies operating in the West Bank and Gaza areas are to receive loans to help them renew their fleets.

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An independent Arab political daily
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Humanitarian interest ?

We are not convinced by Mr. Menachem Begin's professions of humanitarian interest in the welfare of the population of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In view of the avowed expansionist tendencies of the governing Likud bloc in Israel, Sunday's cabinet decision to extend Israeli public services to the two occupied areas smacks suspiciously of a prelude to annexation.

The Israeli premier's disavowals of any "political significance to the decision" contrast sharply with his declared position on the areas in question. Are we not right to suspect that Mr. Begin is being faithful to his predecessors? Did not Chaim Weizman, the chief architect of the Balfour Declaration of 1917, give assurances that "it is not our objective to seize control of the higher policy of the province of Palestine." Were we not told that a "national home" for the Jews did not mean a "Jewish state"? How can we credit Mr. Begin's disclaimers having seen Zionist aspirations time and again sweeping aside all other considerations, particularly the welfare of the Palestinians? Knowing that Mr. Begin looks on the West Bank as a pseudonym for Judea and Samaria, given that the Likud leader firmly believes the two areas cannot be annexed in the first place as they form part of the biblical land of Israel, one can only wonder why the people of the Golan Heights and occupied Sinai are not to be accorded the same privileges that are now being extended to the West Bank and Gaza.

The argument that the Israeli cabinet's action is intended primarily as a prod to soften the Arab stand on negotiations does not carry much weight either. The declared willingness by the PLO to reconsider Resolution 242 was rebuffed so soundly on the first day it was mooted by Mr. Begin, even before any details were known that we suspect Arab concessions are not the top item on his agenda, and that he is actually thinking of Arab capitulation. Mr. Begin, whose foreign minister will be engaged in bilateral negotiations at the U.N. on the Middle East next month, believes that the map of Israel was drawn up by King Solomon and not by United Nations resolutions.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I noted, on Monday, that the "unofficial" Israeli "tune" of being a small, peaceful country threatened by its blood-thirsty neighbours has recently been discarded. Premier Menachem Begin, in the most recent conference of his Washington visit, spoke of a "powerful Israel" whose strength can be compared to those of Britain and France and whose people "have never been known as cowards." This propaganda campaign of Israeli strength aims at three results, the paper said: the removal of the anxiety Israel feels at its current international isolation; making the Arabs understand that Israel is not afraid of any international pressure; and convincing the Americans that Israel is the United States' only capable ally in the region.

AL DUSTOUR said that if there could have been any doubt concerning Israeli intentions over the latest Israeli administrative move in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, this doubt was dispelled by the official spokesman of the Israeli cabinet who said that this move does not constitute an "annexation" because the territories in question already "belong" to Israel. But, the paper asked, why adopt these measures at this particular time? The only apparent reason must be Israel's determination

to destroy the American peace initiative and to show forth the forthcoming Geneva conference as a humiliating farce for the Arab who, if they attend it, will have nothing to negotiate about after this Israeli takeover of Arab lands.

AL SHA'B called for an Arab re-evaluation of the current political conditions following the failure of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's peace mission in the area. The Arab Nation, the paper said, faces its most crucial historical challenge at the moment and what is urgently needed is an Arab action which can rise to the challenge.

AL AKHBAR said the Arab world has no choice in its confrontation with Israel. The Zionist attack on our nation put us, whether we liked it or not, across the firing line from them. Similarly, we are no longer in possession of the initiative to decide on war or peace since we do not possess the material ability to make war or peace. But because we are a nation that refuses to submit, it is our fate to remain in confrontation with Israel. The one thing that we are able to do is to make it impossible for Israel to achieve its aims by not begging for a peace whose trump card was stolen by Israel from the U.S., to whom we ourselves had given it in the first place.

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Envoy gives Assad note from King

AMMAN, (R). — Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, delivered a message from King Hussein to President Hafez Assad in Damascus yesterday.

The Jordan News Agency (JNA) said the message contained results of talks held by Jordan on the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance discussed peace efforts in the area with King Hussein during his recent tour of five Arab states and Israel.

The agency said the message aimed at coordinating efforts between Syria and Jordan towards the Middle East.

Both countries rejected the idea of working groups during the next General Assembly session in New York, but expressed readiness to send their foreign ministers for separate talks with Mr. Vance.

Sharif Sharaf returned here the same day.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran visited Saudi Arabia Saturday and held similar talks with Saudi officials.

New town hall, 2 commercial centres to be constructed

AMMAN (JNA). — Amman Municipality Sunday signed agreements with three local firms to carry out studies for the Zahran and King Talal commercial centres and a new Amman municipal building.

Mayor Ma'n Abu Nuwwar said the Zahran commercial centre will be a complete market for serving Jabal Amman, Shmeisani, the western side of Jabal Luweibdeh and Al Hussein housing estate.

King Talal commercial centre will be located in the city centre near the Sell. It will include parking lots, money exchangers, a cinema and health, postal and telephone services.

The new municipal building will accommodate all the city's departments, in addition to lecture and meeting halls.

Mayor Abu Nuwwar said that nine other municipal buildings will be set up to serve the inhabitants of the capital's nine districts.

He said the first project, to cost JD 2 million, will take two years to complete. The second project will cost the same. No figures were available for the municipal building.

Public security courses start

AMMAN, (JNA). — Two public security courses started at the Royal Police Academy here Monday morning.

The first is a six-week refresher course for traffic policemen, during which they will receive lectures on such subjects as the overland transport law.

The second course, lasting two weeks, will train public security men to maintain law and order.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, Public Security Director General Maj.-Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat said: "Our role not only consists of preparing members of our public security forces. It also consists of training Arab policemen, in particular those from the Gulf states."

Groups of police officers from the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain are attending the two courses.



National Planning Council head Dr. Hanna Odeh (left) signs an agreement Sunday with representatives of the Canadian company, Genstar, to conduct feasibility studies for a massive tourist development project in Aqaba.

UNRWA PLANS TO RETURN TO BEIRUT IN NOVEMBER

AMMAN (R). — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) plans to return to its headquarters in Beirut in November, according to an agency circular distributed here yesterday.

The agency established temporary headquarters in Vienna and Amman last year after it was unable to operate in Lebanon because of the civil war.

The circular issued by the Commissioner General of the agency, Mr. Thomas McElhenny, said he expected to have sufficient office accommodation in Beirut by mid-November 1977.

University proposes study on Islamic education here, creation of schools in U.S.

AMMAN (JNA). — The University of Jordan Monday mooted the idea of a study to assess the position of Islamic education throughout the Arab World.

The proposal was included in a memorandum it sent to the Secretariat of the Arab Universities Union Monday in reply to the recommendations made by a recent conference on Islamic education.

The university proposed the formation of a committee to

Work starts to improve Amman's telephones

AMMAN (JNA). — The Telecommunications Corporation started to implement its working plan to upgrade the services of its overworked and outdated telephone exchanges here Monday.

The JD 130,000 project will be supervised by nine experts from an Indian company, Indian Telephone Industries, which won the contract last month.

Telecommunications Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail said that work will consist of redesigning the exchanges to increase the number of

lines presently available.

The plan was drawn up by the corporation's advisers and the contract for its implementation awarded to the Indian company, he stated.

The director general stressed that most of the work will be done late at night until the early morning hours of the next six months. This will have no effect upon present telephone traffic, he said.

The Indian company was awarded the contract since it manufactures telephone exchanges that are similar to the British-made ones here. It will also provide training courses in maintenance for technicians at the corporation's training centre.

Mr. Ismail called on citizens to cooperate with the corporation by shortening their telephone calls until the project is completed.

Canadians to study feasibility Aqaba tourist complex starts to take shape

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

A contract was signed here Sunday morning with a Canadian company that could result in the Middle East's most sophisticated and most expensive water sports and leisure complex -- a \$250 million JD 60 million inland lagoon project at Aqaba.

The contract signed with the Canadian company Genstar Limited calls for a technical feasibility and economic viability study of the entire Aqaba project. The contract, worth \$850,000, is to be completed within eight months.

The lagoon project, as now envisaged and according to a pre-feasibility plan drawn up two years ago by the Canadian office of the consultants Peat, Marwick, will cover a 2,500-hectare site (250 hectares) behind the royal palaces and along the northern shore of the Gulf of Aqaba.

A central inland water lagoon will be the focal point of the project, and from the lagoon a series of finger-like waterways will radiate out.

There will be room for 250 yachts to berth, four first-class hotels with a total of 1,400 beds, 400 private homes along the lagoon's shore, 80 private villas along the Gulf of Aqaba shoreline, 500 apartments along the northern shore of the lagoon, and housing for 1,500 employees who would run the various facilities that would form part of the integrated lagoon complex.

These would include facilities for every conceivable kind of water sport, a small golf course (depending on water availability, the golf course may be 9 or 18 holes, and it may or may not be watered and green all-year round), res-

taurants and evening entertainment spots, shopping arcades, cinema, and other such leisure activities.

Most of the home units would be sold, though some would be available on a rental basis, according to preliminary concepts for the project.

Initial estimates for the entire scheme put the cost at about JD 80 million, and Jordan has been holding talks over the past year on financing the Aqaba project with Canadian private and public sector organizations.

Detailed financing efforts would not be undertaken until the feasibility study is completed eight months from now, though it is likely that Canadian institutions would play a leading role in financing, supplying and building the lagoon project.

It is also likely that the project would be implemented in phases, Genstar Senior Vice-President J.E. Searle told the Jordan Times here Sunday.

Tourism and Antiquities Ministry Director General Michael Hamarneh told the Jordan Times that the project would probably have a special appeal to European tourists, particularly in the winter months when Aqaba is warm and sunny.

Mr. Searle also said that Genstar would consider setting up a manufacturing plant in Aqaba to provide pre-cast concrete structures to build much of the housing that will be required for the lagoon scheme.

He also said that training of the required skilled personnel to run the various facilities would likely be an integral part of the final construction and management contract for the scheme.

This is Genstar's first contract in the Middle East.



The Crystal Pyramid — stars of Radio Jordan's English section — perform their own brand of light, folky music at the Haya Arts Centre Sunday evening. The concert, attended by Her Highness Princess Basma, was in aid of a children's library. They perform at the centre again Tuesday evening.

Meet discusses new green areas

AMMAN (JNA). — The Central Committee of the Green Jubilee project Monday met under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Ibrahim Ayyoub to discuss the implementation of the project in all Jordanian governorates.

The project will create new woods and forests in collaboration with citizens and public and private institutions.

Contract signed for Jordan Valley centre

AMMAN (JNA). — An agreement for the construction of an agricultural marketing centre and vegetable and fruit packing centre was signed with a local contractor at the Jordan Valley Authority Sunday.

The JD 962,000 centre will be set up on a 20-dunum site in the Arda area of the central Ghor. It will be capable of handling 1,400 and packing 300 tons of fruit and vegetables daily.

The centre, to be built in stages, will be completed by the end of 1978, the Director General of the Jordan Valley Farmers Association, Dr. Sami Suna, said Sunday.

Showrooms, a restaurant and a number of offices will also form part of the centre, he added.

The association plans to establish three other marketing centres in Southern Shouneh, Northern Shouneh and Wadi Al Yabes.

Lecture given on folklore heritage

AMMAN (JNA). — The head of the Information Section at the Department of Public Security, Maj. Ahmad Uweid Al Abbadi, gave a lecture on Jordan's folklore heritage at the Samir Rifaie Auditorium of the University of Jordan Monday.

Maj. Abbadi said that according to Arab tradition, anybody seeking refuge is always accepted without any conditions. The only consideration is the refugee's own interest, namely the protection of his life and the lives of his kin or other people accompanying him. Modern political asylum, on the other hand, is based on a state's own interest, not that of the refugee, he stressed.





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Has the world population time-bomb been defused ?

On the third anniversary of the World Population Conference in Bucharest, the population forecast is beginning to look brighter. It seems after all that our numbers may not be growing so fast that we are in immediate danger of stretching our planet to its limits.

By Maggie Black

LONDON, (Gemin) — Three years ago, the delegates to the World Population Conference in Bucharest folded their newly-printed copies of the world population plan of action into their briefcases, packed their luggage and went home.

With the bitter arguments between the rich world and the poor world still ringing in their ears, and the sobering statistics of the world demographic trends still etched on their minds, feelings were hardly exuberant. But in the three years since then, the mood has lifted. The world population watchers have re-done their sums, and their findings are much more optimistic than they were.

The rapid population growth rate of the sixties has begun to slow down. The scaremongers who predicted a world with 8 billion people by the year 2000 have lopped two and a half billion off their estimates. In 1970 there were 69 million more births than deaths worldwide.

In 1975, the comparative figure was 64 million — a small drop perhaps, but a significant one. "There are definite signs," says Rafael Salas, Chief of the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, "that the rate of growth is slowing down, and may slow down further by 1985."

In relation to the total world population figure of 4,000 million, the drop may seem paltry. But a small change today can make a big change tomorrow. To halve the growth rate today means the difference by the year 2077 between a projected figure of 80 billion, or 6 billion.

This was the kind of mes-

sage that went home in the luggage of the Bucharest delegates, and which impressed many of the Third World governments who had felt previously that population growth was seen as a "problem" only by a rich world antipathetic to their people and their interests.

Lester Brown, Director of Washington's Worldwatch Institute, and distinguished commentator on the world food and population scene, describes one such change of heart.

In his book "By Bread Alone" published in 1974, he had expressed the view that few national leaders understood that a 3 per cent annual population growth rate leads to a 19-fold in a century.

Some months later he received a letter from President Nyerere of Tanzania, which said: "Whatever the figure was before, there is now one more national leader. We have 15 million people in Tanzania and a 3 per cent population growth rate, and I have been trying to imagine what my country would look like a century from now. We would have more people than live in North America today!"

The second important fact is that a great many more countries are actually trying to do something about their population growth rates. The adoption of a world plan of action at Bucharest caused bitter wrangling and all-night sessions of drafting and re-drafting.

But since then, many countries have gone even further than it suggested in setting themselves the target of reducing population growth below 2 per cent by 1985. The countries from the Asian and Pacific region which met in re-

gional consultation in 1975 endorsed this aim unanimously.

In fact, far from supporting the image which is often held up of a developing world feckless and unconcerned about family size and family planning, in terms of national population policies the developing countries could now well claim to be setting the pace.

As Jyoti Sinha points out in the latest edition of UNFPA's Populi periodical, in Asia, 25 out of 30 governments now give direct support to contraceptive services. In Latin America the figure is 21 out of 27, and in Africa 22 out of 48.

The governments of 48 out of 114 countries of the developing world — with four out of five of its people — now desire a lower rate of population growth, and all but a handful are taking active measures in this direction.

This major upsurge in the spread of family planning services marks a big upheaval in government and popular attitudes towards the thorny issues of population and fertility.

But the post-Bucharest population story is not all good news. It is still the case that population growth has a lot of slowing down to do. In the developing world, 40 per cent of the people are under fifteen, so a high proportion of the world's potential parents have yet to begin having children. The population of India, for example, would still grow from today's 600 million to about 800 million, even if the average number of children per family dropped overnight from five to two.

Another telling point concerns where the major population slowdowns are happening. Firstly, in China. According to the most reliable estimates — which, as there are no official data, are at best informed guesses — the Chinese birthrate has dropped by 2.6 points a year over the past five years, from 3.2 per cent to 1.9 per cent — the fastest drop ever recorded.

The experts dispute as to whether the principal element in the Chinese success story

is the provision of well-organised family planning services, or the meeting of basic social and economic needs. What is clear is that the combination can dramatically drive down the birthrate among a very large population, even where income levels are not high.

The other part of the world where the slow-down has been so significant is in the U.S. and Europe. Birthrates are now falling everywhere in the industrialised world and six countries — East Germany, West Germany, Luxembourg, Austria, Belgium and Britain — have already reached zero population growth.

A U.S. survey in 1975 among wives aged 18-24 showed that 74 per cent planned to have one or two children as compared with only 45 per cent eight years earlier. If the demographers' graphs go on declining at current rates, a cluster of countries containing 535 million people will have stabilised their populations by 1985.

But the real issue is still the relationship between population growth and development in those places where basic needs — food, shelter, education, jobs — are not being met for as many as 1,000 million people. In the countries where the problem of poverty is most acute, and most often linked with talk of the population explosion — India is a classic example — the statistics of population slow-down are not so encouraging.

Mass sterilisation campaigns, both in India and Bangladesh, have conjured instant statistical issues. The target for India 1976/77 was 4.3 million operations. But specially when their voluntary nature is suspect, they have caused a huge backlash from the poor.

Their failure demonstrates forcibly that there are no short cuts. Says Mahbub ul Haq of the World Bank: "It is only by solving the problem of economic and social deprivation that the countries of the Third World can expect to reduce their population growth."

Around the conference table at Bucharest there were two clearly demarcated camps as

far as defining the "population problem" was concerned. One camp envisaged a world of shrinking resources, threatened by ever-expanding and voracious hordes of humanity. The other knew a world principally inhabited by people whose demands on resources were negligible and whose needs were better met by development than contraceptive technology.

At Bucharest the battle line between the camps was clear. Three years on, the adversaries have all but laid down their cudgels. There is no longer a sharp divide, but a working consensus that family planning is an integral part of development, and development an integral part of family planning.

The arrival of consensus in the great debate about population and resources is in itself a cause for optimism. While Third World governments and ministries of health legitimately felt that every pronouncement on population growth was a smokescreen for discrimination on the subject could take place.

Three years on from Bucharest, perhaps in retrospect the conference's most useful achievement was to blow the lid off this political cauldron, and let the debate come out into the open. Now that the dust has settled, it would seem that — in most countries at least — the Third World is going about its population growth rate problem with a will.

Organised crime emerges in Israel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (R). — Organised crime has reached such proportion in Israel that every explosion or fire in a nightclub, warehouse or dress boutique prompts the question: "Palestinian guerrillas or underworld?"

These incidents, after being reported by the local press and radio, are almost invariably claimed by an Arab guerrilla organisation as its work.

But often police put the blasts down to the underworld "settling accounts". Interior Minister Yosef Burg, responsible for the police force, recently stated, after months of official denials, that organised crime does exist in Israel.

"When you hear of organised crime you think of the mafia and the godfather. It may not be exactly like that here, but the underworld is becoming more sophisticated and organised," Dr. Burg said.

The head of the Police Intelligence Unit, Shmuel Nahmias, resigned in June after a dispute about his demand for the establishment of a special gang-busting police unit.

Throughout July and early August a crusading member of the Knesset has been engaged in a public feud with a former army general and a business millionaire in which allegations of connections with the underworld have been made. Matters first came to public attention nearly two years

ago when Mr. Ehud Olmert, a Knesset member for the then opposition and now ruling Likud Party, said in a radio interview that he had proof that a leading Israeli businessman was involved in criminal activities.

He did not name names. Mr. Olmert recently called a press conference to tell of some of his findings during the past 18 months which he said showed the emergence of a group of younger and more sophisticated criminals seeking to wrest control of the underworld from its previous more amateurish leaders.

The Knesset member, who says he has been receiving numerous telephone threats as a result of his findings and is under police protection with his family, said he has passed all information in his possession to the police.

Israel radio and television have devoted much of their recent news programmes to the affair.

Israeli newspapers also have devoted much space to the issue, though usually without giving names. Activities claimed to be the recent work of organised crime groups in these reports include murders by "hit men" of trial witnesses, numerous bombings and arson of dress shops, night clubs, warehouses and other premises, control of large sections of the Tel Aviv wholesale vegetable market, as well as

the theft and illegal sale of diamonds.

Other evidence of organised crime quoted by the papers includes the fact that a large furniture factory and showroom which suffered three fires in four months has been safe since new partners were taken on.

Criminals are also reported to have attempted to buy up, for blackmail use, uncovered cheques presented to a prominent political leader who found himself in financial difficulties. None of the newspapers has hinted at any name in this connection.

Meanwhile Mr. Nahmias has said that many senior police officers and officials agree with him that crime in Israel has become too sophisticated to be dealt with through routine police channels.

He said the police frequently know who is responsible for criminal acts but don't have sufficient evidence to bring the leading criminals to court. He wants a small group of 30 to 50 police officers to carry out underground police intelligence work, with nationwide powers and access to computers and sophisticated equipment.

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Turkey raises cigarette, spirit prices

ISTANBUL, Aug. 15, (R). — The Turkish government today announced big rises in the price of cigarettes and spirits, in what could be the first phase of a package of measures to shore up the country's limping economy.

Rises ranged from 25 to 100 per cent on cigarettes and tobacco, and from 60 to 120 per cent on spirits. Tobacco and spirits are state monopolies in Turkey.

The rises brought the price of filter cigarettes to 10 lira (33 pence sterling) or more for a packet of 20. Raki, the most popular strong alcoholic drink in Turkey, rose to 40 lira (£1.32) a half-litre bottle for the cheaper variety.

Businessmen and economists have been calling for more realistic pricing of basic goods and services. They have also urged a rise in the price of petrol and other oil products, which have been kept artificially low for political reasons.

Turkey's main economic problem is a drastic foreign exchange shortage caused by a huge balance of payments de-

ficit. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel had stated before today's price rises that his government would introduce "stabilisation measures".

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fil	Buying/Selling	92.60/90
Saudi riyal	104.50/105.20	
Lebanese pound	81.30/80	
Syrian pound	957.00/955.00	
Iraqi dinar	1137.00/1142.00	
Kuwaiti dinar	465.00/471.00	
Egyptian pound	720.00/727.00	
Libyan dinar	83.70/84.00	
UAE dirham	572.00/578.00	
U.K. sterling	328.00/330.00	
U.S. dollar	122.40/80	
German mark	67.30/60	
French franc	137.70/137.10	
Swiss franc	every 100	37.30/50

Two Yemens, Mauritania, Somalia agree to join Arab Common Market

CAIRO, Aug. 15 (AFP). — The two Yemens, and in Africa, Mauritania and Somalia, have agreed to join the Arab Common Market, the Middle East News Agency reported here Saturday.

It said their agreement was announced by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Abdul Saqban at a press conference un-

der the council's 13th anniversary.

Mr. Saqban added that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates had been contacted with a view to getting them to join the common market as well.

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria formed the CAEU in June 1964 by ratifying an agreement on Arab economic unity which aimed to set up a single economic system combining all Arab states, and a few months later ratified a resolution establishing a common market, but Kuwait withdrew a year later.

Mr. Saqban said that the council's members had since 1964 reached the stage of free exchange. The problem now was to tackle the formation of a customs union.

With the help of United Nations experts, a joint Arab economic plan was currently being worked out, he added.

Uganda obtains \$10 million loan from UAE

ABU DHABI, Aug. 15 (R). — Uganda today obtained a \$10 million soft loan from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to help finance a road building project.

The loan, at 3.5 per cent annual interest, is to be repaid over 15 years after five years of grace, officials said.

It will cover one third of the \$30 million cost of the project. Qatar was due to provide a further \$5 million for the project, they added.

The funds will be provided by the UAE government and the loan will be managed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADF-AED), officials said.

This was believed to be the first time that a loan has been provided directly by the UAE government rather than by the ADFAED.

Pay rise ends Spanish hotel workers' strike

MALAGA, Spain, Aug. 15 (R). — A pay strike by hotel workers on the Spanish Costa del Sol which left thousands of tourists making their beds and cooking their own meals came to a surprise end today.

The restaurant and bar staff accepted a wage rise of 5,000 pesetas (£35) monthly, which was 3,000 pesetas (£21) less than they had demanded.

The strike began 10 days ago in the northwest of Spain but it was only yesterday that it reached this tourist centre, which has been enjoying a boom summer as a result of a 20 per cent devaluation of the peseta.

"Thank God the strike is over and we are all back to work", said a spokesman at

Malaga's five star Melia Don Pepe Hotel this morning.

Almost all bars and restaurants were closed along the 130 km. coastline and hotel proprietors called in friends and relatives to man switchboards and prepare cold meals.

Half a million tourists, most of them from Britain, West Germany and Scandinavia, are staying on the Costa del Sol — the sunny coastline which boasts more beds per square foot than anywhere else in Europe.

Yesterday striking workers picketed many hotels under the watch of heavily-armed riot police and labour sources said about 50 of them were arrested.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

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One dollar =	2.3285 / 95	West German marks
	2.4500 / 20	Dutch guilders
	2.4190 / 4200	Swiss francs
	35.67 / 70	Belgian francs
	4.9105 / 30	French francs
	883.00 / 20	Italian lire
	266.30 / 40	Japanese yen
	4.4145 / 55	Swedish crowns
	5.2765 / 75	Norwegian crowns
	6.0100 / 0125	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stock prices rose slightly Monday, and at 15:00 the F.T. index was up 4.2 at 476.7.

Government bonds pared initial gains of up to 3/8 and closed around 1/8 lower.

Equities edged higher after an uncertain start, with leading issues adding a penny or two. Gold shares eased in line with the bullion price. U.S. stocks fell with the trend on Wall Street while Canadian issues lost ground.

Tube Investments added 12p ahead of company results and GKN rose 5p, while other leading issues rose narrowly. Bowater and Reed International fell 3p and 1p respectively, while Pilkington recovered a 5p fall and was quoted 1p below the opening level. Oils were firmer where changed.

Leading banks were up to 3p lower and properties and insurances closed narrowly mixed with a firm undertone.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$144.15/oz.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Prices gained some ground Monday at the New York Stock Exchange. The industrial average dropped three points at the beginning of the session, but closed at 874.14, up 3.04 points. 15,000,000 shares were traded.

For most of the session, the market showed a loss amid persistent uneasiness over rising interest rates. But a late round of buying in blue-chips issues propped up the stock market. Declines outnumbered gains by a 741 to 648 margin.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 874.14, a gain of 3.04 points. Transp. at 210.10, a loss of 0.78; utilities at 114.23, a loss of 0.45. 15,750,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,680,000 during the last hour.

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Owner: Tawfiq Ksous
Time: 1.41 minute
THE SECOND: GHAAZALEH
Owner: Ali A. Sokout
THE THIRD: UM EL KALAYD
Owner: A. El Fattah Malhas

WIN: 200 fils — JD 1.6
TWIN: 400 fils — JD 3.5



FOURTH RACE
PAN ARAB CUP
FOR THIRD & SECOND CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE: 1,600 METRES
THE FIRST: SAKLAWI
Owner: H.H. Sheikh Rashid Ibn Issa Al Khalifeh
Time: 1.47.1 minute
THE SECOND: M. DINA
Owner: Wassef Bisharat
THE THIRD: EL SABIH
Owner: H.H. Sheikh Khalifeh Ibn Hamad Al Thani

WIN: 200 fils — 400 fils
TWIN: 400 fils — JD 2.5



SECOND RACE
FOR BEGINNER HORSES
DISTANCE: 1,400 METRES
THE FIRST: RABHA
Owner: H.H. Sharif Naser Ibn Jamil
Time: 1.39.5 minute
THE SECOND: SHALHOBIH
Owner: H.H. Sheikh Khalifeh Ibn Hamad Al Thani
THE THIRD: RADDAD
Owner: Saif H. Majali

WIN: 200 fils — 250 fils
TWIN: 400 fils — JD 1



FIFTH RACE
FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE: 1,000 METRES
THE FIRST: NAVARTITI
Owner: H.H. Sheikh Khalifeh Ibn Hamad Al Thani
Time: 1.9 minute
THE SECOND: IZZ EL KHAIL
Owner: H.H. Sharif Naser Ibn Jamil
THE THIRD: TAMAM
Owner: H.H. Sheikh Khalifeh Ibn Hamad Al Thani

WIN: 200 fils — 250 fils
TWIN: 400 fils — JD 1
DOUBLE TOTE: 400 fils — 700 fils



THIRD RACE
FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE: 1,400 METRES
THE FIRST: KHAILAN
Owner: El Talia'a Stable
Time: 1.38.2 minute
THE SECOND: BAHIR
Owner: Ismail Salem
THE THIRD: MARHAB
Owner: Saif H. Majali

WIN: 200 fils — 300 fils
TWIN: 400 fils — 800 fils



SIXTH RACE
FOR CAMELS
DISTANCE: 2,200 METRES
THE FIRST: JARWAH
Owner: Mohammad Hamdan
THE SECOND: JARWAN
Owner: Inad Sabah
THE THIRD: KAMRAN
Owner: Mansour Mitalleh

WIN: 200 fils — 250 fils
TWIN: 400 fils — JD 9

مركز الاتصالات

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 16, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: By adopting an optimistic attitude despite gloomy appearances, you can easily gain the objectives that are important to you. Don't make any promises that are likely to be broken.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Look on the bright side of any work you may be doing and it will work out to your advantage. Analyze conditions around you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try not to argue over some silly matter with one you really like. Not a good day to study a new outlet that appeals to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be more self-controlled and help have more harmony at home. Make sure you are not too extravagant with money today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Employ much diplomacy in dealing with others and avoid possible severance of connections. Be poised.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Use your assets wisely, being neither stingy nor extravagant. Follow the good advice of one who is experienced in finance.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be careful not to make any radical changes now that could lead you in the wrong direction. Not a good day for entertaining.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good time to attend to minor duties you have put aside and get them done efficiently. Take no chances with your reputation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Not a good day to try to solve problematical affairs with friends so keep busy at other matters. Take needed health treatments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have many annoying business matters to handle now so attend to them without delay. Rest and relax tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study a new project that interests you. Use your good judgment now since your intuition is not accurate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make sure you keep any promises you have made to others, even though the tasks are unpleasant now. Show more devotion to mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have much work ahead of you but be sure to handle the most important matters first. Strive for true happiness.

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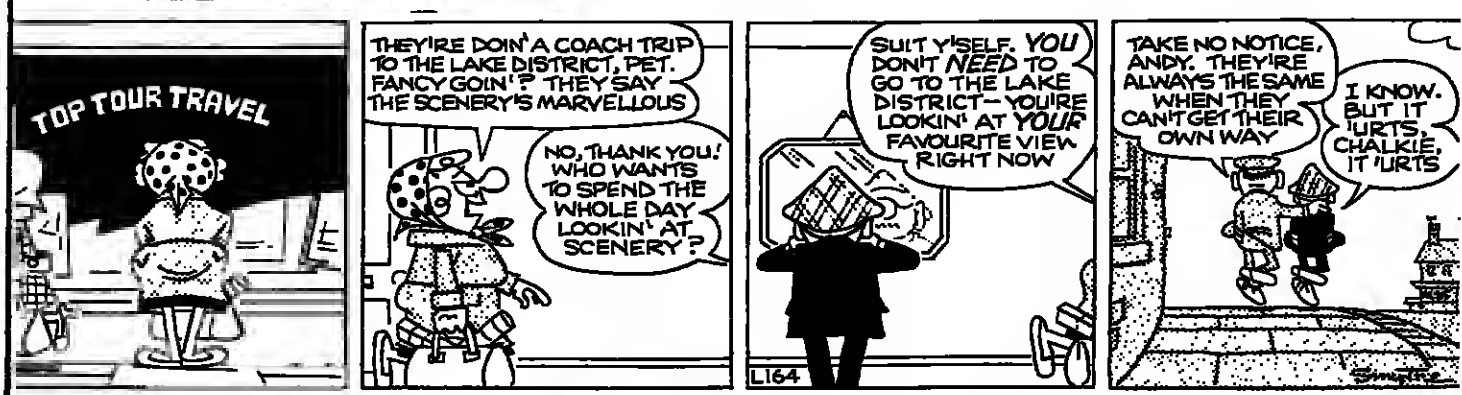
GRAFFITI

A SHAMROCK IS A PHONY DIAMOND

PEANUTS



ANDY GAPP



MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES



LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



PROVERB

It is always the hit dog that howls.

LOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
(c) 1977 by Chicago Tribune

Q — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 05 ♠ A763 ♠ 952 ♠ 8742
T — Bidding has proceeded:
N — 1st South
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South

What action do you take?
A — After an opposing takeout double, we are inclined to raise partner's suit on the smell of an off rag. However, there are limits to our daring. This balanced hand is unlikely to contribute much to our side's defensive potential, so we feel a raise to two hearts would only serve the opponents by alerting them to definite shortage in one hand or the other. Therefore, we would pass.

Q2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AKJ64 ♠ K1083 ♠ 9 ♠ A95
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South

What do you bid now?
A — Two hearts. Your hand is worth one move, and your best bet is to raise partner's suit. Introducing your spades can serve no useful purpose. You can play in only one major suit, and you have already found a fit. A new suit by you would not be forcing, and should partner pass one spade you would probably be in an inferior contract.

Q3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A1083 ♠ A954 ♠ AKQ107
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South

What do you bid now?
A — You have a very powerful supporting hand and we would not fault you greatly if you jumped to four hearts. However, since you have forced partner to bid, he might have a very bad hand with only three hearts, so give him some leeway. We recommend a cue-bid of two diamonds, followed by a raise to three hearts. That will adequately express our strength, and if partner happens to have a

good one heart response, you might even unearth a slam.

Q4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q87 ♠ 63 ♠ AK93 ♠ AK82
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South

What do you bid now?
A — You have an awkward hand. Your heart weakness and the fact that most of your strength was concentrated in two suits prevented you from opening one no trump. Now a rebid of one no trump would be an underbid while a jump to two no trump would be a gross overstatement of your values. The only alternative is to temporize by bidding two clubs, to see what action partner will take.

Q5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KQ10962 ♠ Q ♠ K1083 ♠ 84
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South
1 — 1st South

What do you bid now?
A — You have to do something to tell partner you have a reasonable hand. While a bid of two spades would show a fair six-card suit, partner will still consider it merely a competitive effort. A jump to three spades better describes your holding.

Q6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AK85 ♠ 93 ♠ AQ76 ♠ KQ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 — Pass
1 — Pass
1 — Pass

What do you bid now?
A — Another difficult hand. You have the values to jump to two no trump, but that risks losing the spade suit. Yet you are neither strong enough, nor unbalanced enough to jump to two spades. We suggest a temporizing bid of one spade. If partner passes, it is doubtful whether you could make a game. Any other action by partner should leave you better placed to judge the final contract.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EUQUE

UGGOE

CHUNAH

THACED

Print answer here: " " " " " "

Sunday's Jumbles: MOUNT CEASE FICKLE GHETTO

Answer: What student bank robbers are expected to do—TAKE NOTES

(Answers tomorrow)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHAT SHE SAID WHEN SHE WAS INTRODUCED TO THREE HANDSOME HE-MEN.

Answers tomorrow

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:

6:00 Quran

6:30 Cartoons

6:30 News in Arabic

6:00 News in Arabic

Channel 3:

7:00 Jordanian artists

7:30 Arabic series

Channel 6:

7:00 News in Hebrew

7:45 Varieties

8:30 Payroll

8:10 Rich man poor man

10:00 News in English

10:15 Joe Forrester

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Breakfast show

7:30 News

7:40 News reports

8:00 Morning show

11:00 Crystal pyramid

12:00 Pop session

12:00 News summary

12:05 Pop session

14:00 News

14:40 Music

14:30 Arab centres of civi-

15:00 Sign off

15:00 Concert hour

15:00 Easy listening

17:00 From East to West

17:00 Pop session

18:00 News summary

18:05 Pop session

18:30 Good vibrations

12:05 Pop session

14:00 News

14:40 Music

14:30 Arab centres of civi-

15:00 Sign off

15:00 Concert hour

15:00 Easy listening

17:00 From East to West

17:00 Pop session

18:00 News summary

18:05 Pop session

18:30 Good vibrations

12:05 Pop session

14:00 News

14:40 Music

14:30 Arab centres of civi-

15:00 Sign off

15:00 Concert hour

15:00 Easy listening

17:00 From East to West

17:00 Pop session

18:00 News summary

18:05 Pop session

18:30 Good vibrations

12:05 Pop session

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More violence feared as U.K. rightists call for Birmingham rally

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug. 15 (R). — A rally called by the far-right National Front Party despite the savage street battles surrounding its London march raised fears of fresh violence today.

Leftwingers vowed to prevent the meeting from going ahead this evening in this midlands city, heavily populated by black immigrants and their children.

"This National Front rally

is particularly provocative because it is being held in the heart of the black community," a spokesman for the Socialist Workers Party said.

"Our aim is to stop the National Front from holding this public meeting and we are mobilising all the people we can get to take part in the picket."

The Socialist Workers Party was at the forefront of left-wing and black protests against

the National Front march on Saturday through the south London districts of Lewisham and New Cross, where many West Indians live.

In the worst street battles in Britain for years, 104 people were injured, about half of them police, and more than 200 arrested.

Today newspapers carried frontpage pictures of weapons seized by the police, including knives, home-made ammonia guns, and bolt-studded cudgels. Some of those arrested were charged in London courts today with causing grievous bodily harm to police and other offences and were remanded in custody.

While the controversy continued over whether such political demonstrations should be allowed, Prime Minister James Callaghan returned to London from his country home immediately called for a full report on the clashes.

Well before the weekend, the mayor of Lewisham and religious leaders had urged the home secretary to ban Saturday's demonstrations.

Today the Police's Union, the police federation, called for a ban on all demonstrations likely to lead to public disorder.



LONDON CLASHES -- A policeman loses his helmet as demonstrators use their fists during Saturday's confrontation at New Cross, London, during the rightwing National Front's march in the predominantly black district. More than 200 people were arrested and 104 injured, 45 of them policemen. (AP wirephoto).

Bhutto warned over actions by his men

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 15 (R). — Pakistan's military ruler, Gen. Zia-ul-Haque, last night warned former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to keep his supporters under control or face severe punishment.

In a nationwide broadcast, the army chief also announced the release within seven days of all political prisoners arrested since last January and not facing criminal charges.

Referring to violence which marked Mr. Bhutto's arrival in the Punjab capital of Lahore

last Monday, Gen. Zia-ul-Haque said:

"I made it clear to Mr. Bhutto that I shall hold the leaders and not their followers responsible for such cases of lawlessness because I am determined to see to it that violence does not enter politics."

In Lahore, police fired tear-gas when supporters of Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party attacked rival political leaders, mobbed journalists, both Pakistani and foreign, and molested people passing through the airport.

Cambodian radio speaks of armed clashes with Vietnam, Thailand

BANGKOK, Aug. 15 (AFP). — Cambodia indicated again yesterday that trouble had broken out along its isolated border with Vietnam.

Phnom Penh Radio, for the

Pope forecasts his own death

CASTELGANDOLFO, Italy, Aug. 15 (AFP). — Pope Paul VI today forecast the approaching end of his life in a statement to some 2,000 people attending Mass at the new church of "The Virgin of the Lake" on the shores of Lake Albano. The Pontiff, who will be 80 next month, wondered aloud whether "old as I am today," he would celebrate again the feast of the Assumption with the faithful of Castelgandolfo. "I see the end of my earthly life approaching," he said. A Vatican prelate said however that the Pope's state of health was at present "excellent". He seemed to observers to be in good health but they note that he no longer grants the usual audiences, except in special cases, and only welcomes pilgrims with a short speech of welcome and a brief salute.

On eve of Tito's visit Moscow re-affirms respect for Belgrade's independence

By Chris Catlin

MOSCOW, Aug. 15 (R). — The Soviet Union, alive to Yugoslav concern for independence, has hinted to President Tito that it will renew pledges of respect for his country's independent line after he arrives on Tuesday for talks with Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Only days before President Tito's scheduled arrival, the official Soviet news agency Tass pointedly re-affirmed the principles of Soviet-Yugoslav relations set out in a joint communiqué last November when Mr. Brezhnev visited Belgrade.

Closer cooperation between the two countries, Tass said, was "reliably guaranteed by strict observance of the principles of sovereignty, independence (and) non-interference in each other's internal affairs."

The Tass commentary was seen by observers as a virtual commitment to including the same pledges in the communiqué covering President Tito's visit.

Soviet assurances on sovereignty and non-interference have always been important to Yugoslavia, and are becoming more so as thoughts turn increasingly to the country's future once its 85-year-old leader has gone.

But there is a new and tenuous reason why President Tito is likely to look during his visit for a public Soviet acknowledgement of Belgrade's right to chart its own course.

It lies in Moscow's denunciation of Spanish Communist leader Santiago Carrillo, who was criticised by the weekly *New Times* in June of trying to split the world communist movement with the doctrine of "Eurocommunism."

In Yugoslavia the attack re-

third time in six weeks, referred to hostilities along the frontier between the two communist states as an attempt to undermine Cambodia's national sovereignty.

Reliable information backed by aerial photographs has indicated that fighting along the Vietnamese border was even more fierce than along the frontier with Thailand, where more than 50 Thai have died in clashes since February.

Phnom Penh Radio spoke of "the firm decision by all peasants, fighters, workers, youth cadres, to defend energetically the eastern territory (the border with Vietnam) against all obstacles."

Defence of the border area, it said, was to safeguard "the power of the state, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The radio, lumping together ongoing clashes with Thailand on its western border and the alleged threat from Vietnam, said that "Americans and their lackeys" were trying to destroy nation-building projects.

It stressed the importance of combatting "the imperialist enemies" who, it said, were looking for revenge after their "burning defeat."

Since early July, Cambodian radio has referred twice to

trouble in the northeastern provinces of Ratanakiri and Monduliri, which border on Vietnam and are reliably reported to have been partly occupied by Vietnamese forces.

Meanwhile, Hanoi Radio reported last Monday that Vietnamese Defence Minister Gen. Nguyen Giap had visited the Ninth Military Zone in the Mekong Delta, close to the Cambodian frontier, where troops were placed on combat readiness.

The radio quoted Gen. Giap as urging the troops to step up their training and defend Vietnam's borders, territorial waters and offshore islands.

Significantly, the Ninth Military Zone includes small islands in the Gulf of Siam which are claimed by both Vietnam and Cambodia, historic enemies. The islands were occupied by Viet namese troops immediately after the fall of Saigon in April, 1975.

Phnom Penh Radio, in its broadcast yesterday, lauded the solidarity of the Cambodian residents of the Poipet frontier district facing Thailand, where "foreign" troops were said by the radio to be infiltrating and attacking Cambodia.

Thai officials, meanwhile, have claimed that Khmer Rouge troops have for six months been raiding frontier hamlets in the Thai district of Aranyaprathet, about 330 kms. east of Bangkok, opposite Poipet.

The officials put the casualty toll in the raids at 54 Thai dead and charge that the Khmer Rouge were using terrorist tactics, including the massacre of women and children, to clear infiltration routes for Thai Communists.

with Josef Stalin nearly 30 years ago, and prompted official allegations that the spirit of last year's European communist summit -- which endorsed the idea that there are different ways to communism -- was being violated.

Since then, apparently taken aback by the way the Yugoslavs and other Communist Parties sprang to Senior Carrillo's defence, the Soviet Union has seemed keen to dampen things down.

In answer to critics in Yugoslavia and Western Europe who claimed Moscow was taking the offensive against all independently-minded Communists, New Times insisted that the quarrel was with Senior Carrillo alone.

Apart from countering fears raised by the row with Senior Carrillo, the Kremlin probably sees the Soviet-Yugoslav summit as a chance to counter the bad press it received from Belgrade after Mr. Brezhnev was last there.

Initially the Soviet leader seemed to have improved his country's standing in Yugoslavia by conceding that there were different ways to socialism, and deriding the idea of a Soviet "wolf" preparing to devour Yugoslavia.

But soon afterwards President Tito called on Yugoslavs to close ranks and spoke of pressure on his country from abroad.

Highly-placed sources in Belgrade said at the time that he was referring to proposals by Mr. Brezhnev -- which he had rejected -- that Yugoslavia should modify its independent policy and work more closely with Moscow.

The Kremlin chief had suggested greater Yugoslav involvement in Comecon, the Soviet bloc's economic grouping, and military concessions including more facilities for Soviet warships on the Adriatic coast, they said.

Decolonisation and Southern

De Guiringaud says in Lusaka France will push S. Africa to "end stupid apartheid policy"

LUSAKA, Aug. 15 (Agencies)

— French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud said here today that his country would exert diplomatic pressure on South Africa to end its "stupid policy of apartheid."

"We do not think that force can at present change the situation in South Africa," he said.

"Only persuasion can work in South Africa and we are ready to exert pressure on South Africa to change apartheid, which is a stupid policy and which is not to the advantage of the whites."

M. de Guiringaud, who arrived here last night from Nairobi for a three-day visit, was speaking before opening talks with Zambian Foreign Minister Steke Mwale.

He said that he and Dr. Mwale would discuss international affairs as well as the situation in Rhodesia, Namibia

(South West Africa) and South Africa.

M. de Guiringaud yesterday described a Tass report that South Africa will be able to build 100 atomic bombs through a nuclear deal with France as without foundation.

The French minister, who is on a four-country tour of east Africa, said France wanted to deal with any nation despite differences in political systems.

He added that peace and security should be enjoyed by everyone in the world, including Southern Africa. Dr. Mwale said Zambia was committed to supporting the liberation struggle in Southern Africa and looked to France in seeking a solution to problems in the area.

M. de Guiringaud will also confer with Zambian Prime Minister Mainza Chona and tomorrow will have talks with

President Kenneth Kaunda.

He is also expected to meet leaders of the black nationalist movements fighting for majority rule in Rhodesia and Namibia.

The minister will later go on to Mozambique and Tanzania.

Carter pleased with his 1st half-year in office

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter said last night that he would give himself a pretty good score for his first half-year in office.

"I think as far as the tone of the government and the attitude of our people towards the government, the marks would be fairly high," he said in an interview broadcast by a television network.

In dealing with economic affairs, he said, "we have made some good progress already."

"I have been pleasantly surprised at the degree of cooperation and harmony that has evolved between me and the Congress after a shaky start," the president added.

Mr. Carter touched briefly on foreign affairs, although the interview was mainly directed towards his feelings about the way he was handling the ship of state in home waters.

The president defended his policy of openness, whether it be on the Middle East or the reduction of strategic arms, even if this sometimes resulted in an impression of confusion.

"I think it is good to let the American people know the facts behind the controversies and the debates," he said. "Obviously, when these kinds of debates are made public it creates an image of confusion and a lack of comprehensive policy."

Since "no one can expect miracles," the United States has simply "tried to be fair. We are trying not only to put forward our own ideas, but to search among the different disputing nations for some common basis on which they can reach agreement," Mr. Carter said.

News Focus

Is the OAU doomed to remain a mere mediator in African conflicts of its member states?

Jean Marie Judge

PARIS, Aug. 15 (AFP). — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has once again had to take up its role as conciliator between member states.

Last week in Libreville, Gabon, it made a series of recommendations on the Somali-Ethiopian conflict over Ethiopia's Ogaden Province and appointed a sub-committee to study the border dispute between Chad and Libya.

Since its creation, in May 1963 in Addis Ababa, the OAU has been faced with many similar disputes. It has had the formidable task of trying to achieve African unity with 49 independent member states, many of them divided into "moderate" and "progressist" camps. So far the OAU has not had much success in settling dissensions within its own ranks.

Member states all sit round the same table but they view one another through their own pro-Soviet, pro-West, pro-Chinese or pro-Arab ideologies. This continues a political and diplomatic maelstrom which does little to promote the united action and peace called for in the OAU Charter preamble.

Decolonisation and Southern

Africa are about the only subjects which can be guaranteed to produce unanimity. The OAU's mediation efforts in other directions have not always met with resounding or lasting success.

Leaving aside the OAU's early years when it was sharply divided over the Algerian-Morocco conflict in 1963 and the Biafran war in 1968, the last few years have been a testing time for the organisation.

At the July 1975 heads of state summit in Kampala, Uganda, three countries -- Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia -- boycotted the conference in protest against President Idi Amin's regime.

The summit was also marked by verbal clashes between Ethiopia and Tunisia, with Adis Ababa accusing the Tunisians of supporting guerrillas in its northern Eritrean Province.

Tunisia, meanwhile, called for the transfer of the OAU's headquarters from Addis Ababa to some other African capital.

Member states also failed to agree on a resolution calling for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations.

The Angolan affair, with military intervention by Cuba and South Africa, caused con-

siderable tension within the OAU but the organisation managed to survive a stormy special session in January 1976 in Addis Ababa.

Members were divided on an "African solution" to end the fighting between Angola's rival liberation movements. This highlighted the split in Africa between "progressist" and "moderate" countries and resulted in the civil war continuing with the pro-Marxist People's Liberation Movement (MPLA) defeating its Western-backed rivals.

Last year's July summit in Mauritius pointed up divergences between several members -- Ethiopia against Somalia over Djibouti (then the French Territory of Afars and Issas), Sudan and Libya against Kenya following the Israeli raid on Uganda's Entebbe Airport, Algeria against Morocco and Mauritania over the partitioning of the former Spanish Sahara.

Morocco and Mauritania both threatened to quit the OAU if member states adopted a resolution on the issue. A walkout was avoided when the summit decided to hold a special conference on the dispute.

This year Morocco and Mauritania boycotted the opening session of an OAU ministerial conference protesting against

the presence of a delegation from the Saharan liberation movement Polisario.

Later Morocco walked out of the conference after an OAU-circulated report accused Rabat and Gabon of involvement in a plot to overthrow the Benin government.

This year's heads of state summit in Libreville, while setting up a mediation committee, was not much more successful than its predecessors.

The OAU is, however, conscious of its shortcomings and does not hide its concern over the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa.

It does not consider that Ethiopia has lost its battle over Opadon Province but does not exclude the possibility of civil war in the country which could threaten the continued existence of OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

Possible alternative "homes" for the OAU include Sudan, Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Zaïre although none of these countries has so far offered to take the headquarters. Only Africa's newest independent nation -- Djibouti -- has said it is prepared to house the OAU headquarters.

Observers believe this would give the young republic an opportunity to pursue the economic and political development of its powerful neighbours Ethiopia and Somalia.

U.S., U.K. agree plans for Rhodesian black rule

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (R).

The United States and Britain have agreed plans to introduce black majority rule in Rhodesia by the end of 1978, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has announced.

The peace blueprint includes proposals for universal suffrage in the breakaway British colony, where blacks outnumber whites by about 20 to one, and legal independence after 11 years of white rebel rule.

Mr. Vance disclosed the package on his way home to Washington on Saturday night from talks in London with British Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen.

He also met South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha and Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere in the British capital.

The U.S. official said that Dr. Owen and Mr. Andrew Young, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, would probably go to Africa in the next two weeks to press for the plan's acceptance.

Full details of the proposals were being kept secret. But they were understood to include a development fund to sustain the Rhodesian economy during the transition period to black power and incentives for the country's 270,000 whites to stay on.

Dr. Nyerere, one of the African Front-line presidents opposed to Rhodesia's white government, hinted in London that he might be prepared to support the latest Anglo-U.S. initiative.

He had earlier discussed prospects for Southern Africa with

President Carter in Washington.

Mr. Vance said: "We believe that the plan is fair and reasonable. We believe it will commend itself to the parties and to international opinion."

The U.S. envoy said that the United States and Tanzania wanted to see a peaceful end to the Rhodesian dispute and elections to decide the composition of government of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Mr. Botha, upon return to Johannesburg yesterday, said he did not want to discuss the details of the London talks but they concerned "very serious proposals and they deserve serious consideration by all Rhodesian parties."

Asked whether South Africa opposed a takeover of Rhodesia through force by the Patriotic Front guerrilla army, Mr. Botha said: "Certainly we are against the assumption of power by a force and through the barrel of a gun anywhere in the world, as a general principle. I think we are not alone in that."

The minister said: "South Africa does not favour a specific plan, a specific policy. That is not South Africa's task, never has been and will not become its task."

"South Africa favours any reasonable solution that will bring peace to the territory, that will receive majority support of the people of Rhodesia, that will ensure economic stability for the people, the blacks and whites of that country, that will ensure law and order, and that can take that country into a new era of progress and development."

As authorities arrest her aides Mrs. Gandhi makes political tours

NEW DELHI, Aug. 15 (Agencies).

Police today arrested several important personalities closely connected with former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, either in her government or her Congress Party.

Samachar news agency said Mrs. Gandhi's private secretary R. K. Dhawan was among the nine taken into custody. Two other names reported were of P. C. Sethi, a former federal minister and Yashpal Kapoor, a close lieutenant of the former premier.

Mrs. Gandhi, making a steady comeback to public life after her shattering general election defeat in March, said yesterday she was not competing for leadership of the opposition Congress Party.

"This is not the time for competition for the leadership of the Congress," Samachar news agency quoted her as saying. "I was never in competition in the past nor am I today."

Efforts by Mrs. Gandhi's supporters to get her accepted as part of a Congress leadership triumvirate received a setback last week.

Congress President Brahmananda Reddy and parliamentarian leader Yashwantrao Chavan were both reported to have told Congress M.P.s that collective leadership did not mean replacing one personality by two or three.

The ex-premier spent the we-

ekend touring the northeastern state of Bihar where, according to Samachar, she was greeted in one village by Harijans (Untouchables, the lowest in India's ancient Hindu caste system) shouting: "Indira, in your absence Harijans are being burnt alive."

In Patna, she had a 55-minute meeting with the man who led a mass movement against her, Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, the leading pacifist reformer jailed under the emergency imposed by Mrs. Gandhi in 1975.

Mr. Narayan told reporters later: "I gave her my best wishes and wished her a brighter future than the bright past she had already had."

Despite their political differences their personal affection remained, he added.

In a separate development,

President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy is to move out of the sumptuous presidential residence -- a huge domed edifice built for British viceroys of India -- into a simpler abode and take a big pay cut.

In a message to the nation last night on the eve of 30th anniversary Independence celebrations, he called for urgent efforts to narrow glaring inequalities in living standards.

"Vulgar ostentation, unnecessary pomp and show and conspicuous emphasis on affluence can only irritate those less fortunately placed in life," he declared.

He is to give up 70 per cent of his 10,000 rupee (₹670) monthly salary, with the rest subject to income tax, and is seeking a simpler house which will not detract from his office and will cost much less.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Bomb threats close New York's La Guardia

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (R). — New York's La Guardia Airport was closed for about one hour yesterday after police received threats that five bombs had been planted there. All flights to the city's second biggest airport were diverted and thousands of passengers were evacuated from terminal buildings. But a 1:00 p.m. deadline for the bombs to go off passed without incident and the airport reopened at 1:30 p.m. No bombs were found, police said.

Bomb blast at Lourdes on eve of Assumption

LOURDES, France, Aug. 15 (R). — A bomb exploded above a huge underground basilica in this centre of religious pilgrimage early yesterday, damaging the roof but causing no casualties, police said. A dynamite charge estimated by police to have weighed about 3 kgs. went off just before 1 a.m. in a concrete ventilation duct above the dome of the Basilica of Saint Pius X. The blast shattered windows in surrounding hotels, full of pilgrims on the eve of today's Assumption Day ceremonies. The basilica, which can accommodate 25,000 pilgrims, is used for ceremonies in bad weather. Normally big religious services at Lourdes are held in the open air. Among the thousands of pilgrims in Lourdes this weekend are several hundred traditionalists, followers of rebel Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre who faces excommunication for his opposition to church reforms. The traditionalists, who call themselves "Crusaders of the Sacred Heart," attended an old-style Latin mass here on Saturday in the city's festival hall.

New Zealand joins U.N. anti-apartheid meet

WELLINGTON, Aug. 15 (R). — New Zealand today announced it would send a delegation to the United Nations anti-apartheid conference in Nigeria next week to emphasise its rejection of South Africa's racial policies. Over the past year New Zealand has been singled out by African states for its sporting contacts with South Africa. More than 20 African and Third World countries walked out of last year's Olympic games in Montreal because a New Zealand rugby union team was touring South Africa.

Abu Dhabi's police under UAE jurisdiction

ABU DHABI, Aug. 15 (R). — Abu Dhabi's ruler Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan today placed his police force under the jurisdiction of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) federal government to comply with an agreement signed by the seven member states last year. Sheikh Zayed is President of the UAE.

Major planet conjunction forecast

MOSCOW, Aug. 15 (AFP). — For the first time in 175 years, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and the Sun will line up in space during the 1980s. But this rare celestial phenomenon should not bring any major catastrophes to our planet, says Ukrainian astronomer Sergei Vsesviatski. According to the professor, quoted by Tass news agency, the location of the planets in relation to our sun may bring about on earth a number of magnetic storms and aurora boreales. But that is all. A number of foreign scientists have predicted that this peculiar conjunction of the planets may result in major floods, earthquakes and dry spells across the earth through the planets' pull on the Sun's centre of gravity.